normally on monthly basis. Accordingly, the ex-storage point price of HSD has been revised during the last ten months as under:

Effective dates	Ex-storage point price (excluding excise duty etc.) (Rs./KL)
20.05.98	7536.89
09.01.99	6722.37
28.02.99	6621.76

New Oil Fields in Assam

2734. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new oil fields have been discovered in Assam recently by the Oil India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details of the new discovery; and

(c) the broad estimate of reserve ascertained after the discovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the year 1998-1999, Oil India Limited has made additional discoveries of hydrocarbons at Mohanbari, North Balijan, South Kathaloni, Khagarijan, Kamkhat and Moran South (Deeper Prospects) in Assam.

(c) The reserves in respect of the above discoveries are yet to be assessed.

Blocks of ONGC Awarded to Private Companies

2735. SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALA PANDEY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Banskandi, Masimpur, Chandipur, Pathimara Bhairabi and Chargola blocks of ONGC Cachar projects were awarded to private companies;

(b) If so, the present status of exploration activities in these areas;

(c) if not, the reasons for slowing down the exploration activities in these areas; and

(d) the action taken by Government to accelerate the exploration programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Exploration blocks AA-ONJ/2, covering Banskandi and CR-ON-90/1 covering Chargola, Chandipur, Bhairabi (partially) and Masimpur have been approved for award to private companies subject to agreement on terms and conditions of the Production Sharing Contract. Out of this, contract for CR-ON-90/1 has been signed.

(b) and (c) The preliminary studies of the existing data of block CR-ON-90/1 have begun to plan the future exploration activity in the block. However, PEL for the block has not yet been granted by the State Government.

(d) The New Exploration Licensing Policy which envisages increased competition among companies is a step towards increasing oil exploration.

In addition, ONGC and OIL have a programme for the IXth Five Year Plan which will bring about significant changes in physical inputs and approach.

Repayment to Dealers

2736. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amounts of number of dealers are still credited in the books of IOC from the last 15 to 20 years;